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REPORT

ON

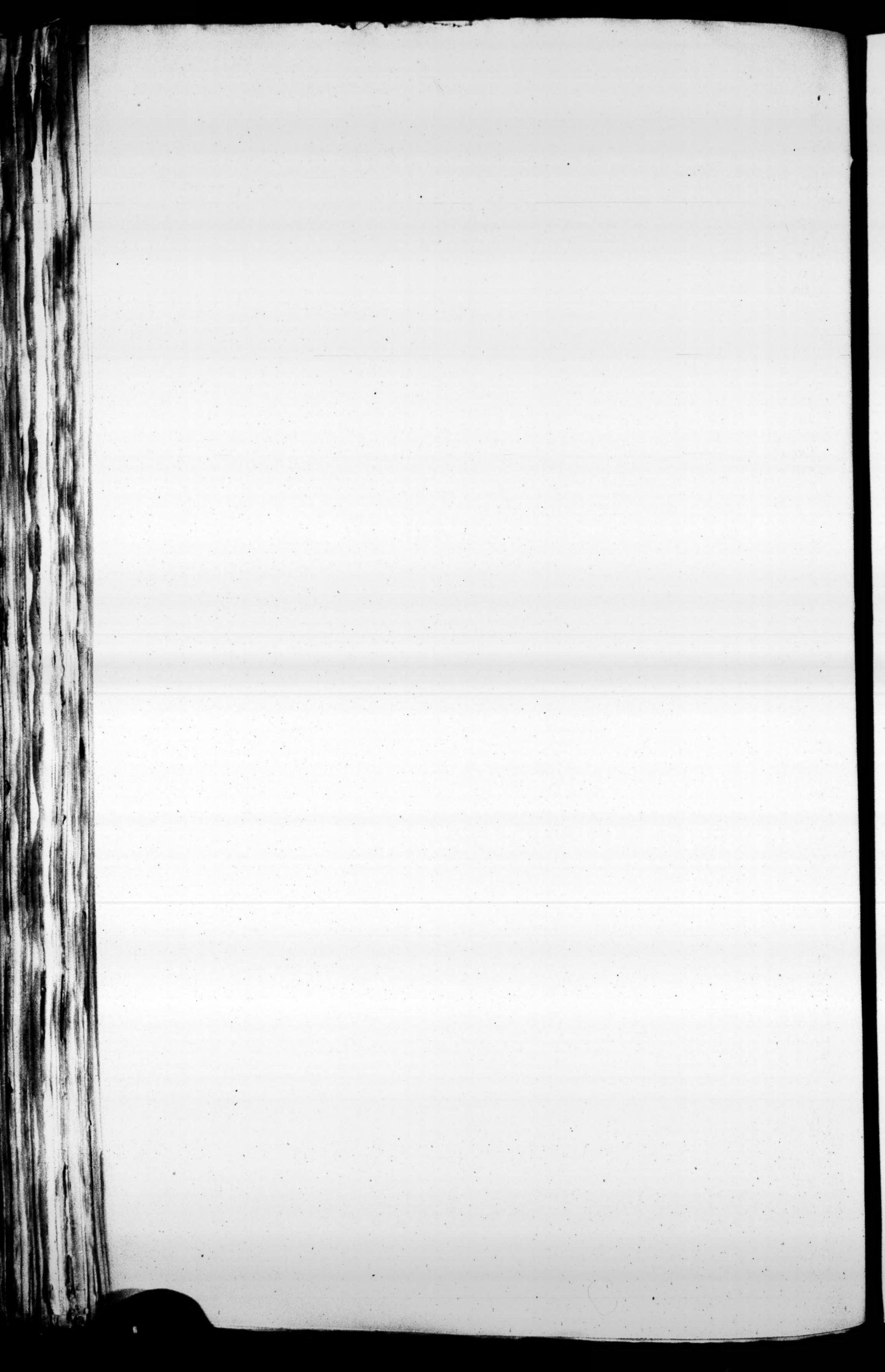
NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 17th May 1902.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 12th May says that Mulla Syed Akbar, who played a conspicuous part in inciting the frontier people against the Government of India during the last frontier rising, has not been allowed by the Amir to come to Afghanistan. It is said that the said Mulla intended to go to Kabul with a large number of his followers to visit the new Amir, but that hearing this, the Amir ordered the frontier officers not to allow him to cross the Afghan frontier.

ROZNAME-I-MUKADDAS
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
May 12th, 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. *Al Punch* [Patna City] of the 3rd May is glad that, in his speech, during the discussion of the budget, Lord Curzon has promised to take up the police reform question. The proposed police reform. His Excellency said that a Commission should be appointed to make a report on the way the proposed reform should be effected. It is hoped that the majority of the members of the Commission will be selected from among those Indians who are really leaders of the people, because it is only these men who will venture to expose all the oppressive actions of the police. The principal duty of the Commission ought to be to travel all over India with the object of making a minute enquiry into the inner life of the police.

AL PUNCH,
May 3rd, 1902.

3. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 11th May publishes a letter in which the writer says that there is just now a wide-spread panic in Dacca and its neighbourhood on account of certain bad characters circulating a rumour about the arrival of a band of kidnappers. The consequence is that many innocent strangers are being subjected to severe ill-treatment and assault. The other day, a woman, aged about 30 or 35, and two men—all strangers—were severely beaten by a large crowd, as they were suspected to belong to the band. The authorities should take immediate notice of all this, as otherwise the matter may take a serious turn.

DACCA PRAKAS,
May 11th, 1902.

4. The *Medini Bandhab* [Midnapore] of the 11th May says that a large number of poor villagers in the Midnapore district have sent in a memorial to Mr. Luson, the District Magistrate, praying for total or partial exemption from the chaukidari tax. The paper gives some instances to show the cruel and rigorous operation of the Chaukidari Act in the district. One Dhanu Pradhan, a native of village Barhua, works at Tamluk on a monthly salary of two rupees and eight annas, with free board and lodging. His aged mother lives in the village in a wretched hut. The whole property of this old woman consists of a bamboo door, a broken brass-pot, and a much-prized stone-cup. And this old woman has been assessed to pay an anna and-a-quarter every month as chaukidari tax! When Dhanu heard of this, he hastened home, saw the collecting panchayet and begged on his knees for exemption. The panchayet said: "Where had you been all this time? I have no power to grant you exemption now. Government must realise the tax." Dhanu was, however, importunate and went on imploring piteously for exemption. But, alas! in vain. Such instances are occurring every day in every village in the Midnapore district. A poor woman lives in village Notuk. She has to maintain two sons and a daughter. For food and clothing she has to beg from door to door; sometimes the seeds of *syama* grass form their only diet. Imagine the door of her hut and her scanty household utensils attached and sold for the realisation of the chaukidari tax. Mr. Luson has a heart to feel for the poor; and it is earnestly hoped that the poor people's petition will not be ineffectual.

MEDINI BANDHAB,
May 11th, 1902.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

5. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 7th May says that Nanda Kumar Ray, khas mahal mohurrir, has been sentenced by Mr. Vas, the Joint-Magistrate, to rigorous imprisonment for fifteen months and a fine of Rs. 300 for misappropriating Government money to the extent of Rs. 13. Nanda

PRATINIDHI,
May 7th, 1902.

The case of an old Government servant in Comilla.

Kumar is an old Government servant, and was not only highly spoken of by the former District Magistrates, but was granted a *jaghir* of one hundred *bigahs* of land for having brought about an increase of Government revenue. He is nearly sixty; and it is a wonder that neither his age, nor his past meritorious services had any influence on Mr. Vas. And why, again, a fine in addition to rigorous imprisonment? In the case against Sub-Registrar Profulla Sen, a fine of Rs. 1,000 was inflicted, in addition to rigorous imprisonment for three years. It seems the fine is meant to compensate Government for its costs in conducting the case. For, was not rigorous imprisonment an adequate punishment by itself?

6. Referring to the judgment of the Calcutta High Court in the

Kharagpur shoe-beating case, the Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika [Calcutta] of the 7th May says, that although, in the opinion of the

Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, the placing of shoes on Jeswant Gopal's back was a trivial matter, it was not only not so in the opinion of Jeswant himself, but it was to him, on the other hand, a sore humiliation. He is a high-caste Mahratta Brahmin, and even a coolie would feel heartily mortified at such an insult. What is more, the fact of a low-caste *chaprasi* having placed the shoes on Jeswant Gopal's back has degraded him and his relatives in the estimation of his caste-fellows. And this is why Jeswant had recourse to a Court of Justice.

There is another point. Counsel for Jeswant, being unable to understand under what provision of the law the case was transferred from the file of the Mussulman Deputy Magistrate to that of Mr. Marr, said that Mr. Marr had absolutely no power to try this case, and that he (Counsel) searched all the papers, but could not find any authority for the transfer. To this Mr. Justice Stevens replied that the authority must be found in some paper or other. Counsel made another search, but with the same result—authority for transfer was nowhere! But what of that? When Mr. Justice Stevens said that authority must be found among the papers, that concluded the matter, no matter whether there was actually any such authority or not! Jeswant Gopal brought to Court three European witnesses, one of whom was a brother of Mr. Bailey. But none was examined. This was not in accordance with the law. Truly, no one ever expected such failure of justice in the Calcutta High Court.

7. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 8th May says that a rule regarding

Payment of arrears of revenue in the Chittagong District. the payment of arrears of revenue to prevent the sale of properties by auction in the Chittagong district is causing great hardship. Those who

make the payment four or five days before the day of auction are required to present a petition bearing a one-rupee stamp—those coming a day or two before, have to pay two rupees, and those coming on the day of the auction three rupees as stamp fee. Moreover, arrears of revenue for three successive years are not received at all, and the properties are sold by auction. Will Mr. Geake, Collector of the District, see his way to modify the rule?

8. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May says that since the abolition of

The Gaibandha Sub Registry Office in the Rangpur District. the Sadullapur Sub-Registry Office within the Gaibandha Subdivision of the Rangpur District, the local people are going to Gaibandha to

register their deeds. The amount of work in the Gaibandha Sub-Registry Office has consequently greatly increased. People intending to have their deeds registered have to go to the office three or four days consecutively before they can have their purpose served. It is hoped that the authorities will, after proper enquiry, remove the hardship consequent on this state of things by either re-establishing the Sadullapur Sub-Registry Office, or ordering the appointment of an additional Sub-Registrar in the Gaibandha office.

9. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 11th May says that two young

Inadequate punishment of a Police officer. women, named Sadi and Dhani, natives of village Kalibari, in thana Amtali, in the Barisal district, laid a complaint before the Deputy Magistrate of

Patuakhali, alleging that while a charge of theft was pending against their

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O.
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 7th, 1902.

JYOTI,
May 8th, 1902.

HITAVADI,
Ma 9th, 1902.

DACCA PRAKAS,
May 11th, 1902.

guardian, named Ecchen Mia, Sub-Inspector, Kamalajjama, and head-constable Kali Kumar Chatterji, of the Patuakhali thana, had kept them confined in a boat for eleven days together, and ravished them during the time.

The Deputy Magistrate, however, disbelieved the complainants and discharged the accused. Against this order the High Court was moved, and the Hon'ble Judges ordered a re-trial of the case. The Magistrate of the district made over the case to the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Kailas Govinda Das, who acquitted the Sub-Inspector and convicted the head-constable, and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 500. The result of the trial need not surprise anybody. There is a deep-rooted popular impression that in trying cases against policemen, the Magistrates make a mockery of justice. Is it fair or just to punish so leniently such a gross offence committed by the "protectors of the peace."

(d)—*Education.*

10. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 2nd May is sorry that Maulvi Muhammad Ibrahim, Inspector of Schools, A popular educational officer. Chittagong Division, who has gained immense popularity in Chittagong for his ability and courtesy, contemplates a transfer, as the climate of the district does not suit him. The Division will suffer by his transfer.

Nobody has anything to say against the Maulvi. He listens attentively to what even a pandit, receiving three rupees a month, says. He treats the pandits with great courtesy. He is often heard to say "I have to work with these pandits, and therefore they deserve to be well treated."

11. The *Basumatî* [Calcutta] of the 8th May says that Babu Haran Chandra Rakshit, the well-known Bengali author, forwarded his "Tales from Shakespeare in Bengali" to the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, and that the Director has expressed his willingness to purchase 12 copies of the same by way of encouraging the author. The liberality of the Director is striking indeed! The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal thanked the author for presenting him with a copy of his book, and expressed a desire to forward a copy to the Shakespeare Society in England; but the Director of Public Instruction did not feel ashamed to purchase only 12 copies as an encouragement to the author! But it is useless to express regret at the non-recognition of merit, where recommendation, persuasion or flattery carries the day, and is the surest way to success.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

12. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 3rd May says that though it may seem paradoxical, the people of the Backergunge district, which is submerged in water for nearly six months in the year, suffer from scarcity of drinking water during the other six months. Not to speak of the interior, the water of all tanks in the villages Lakhutia, Madhebpara, Kasipur, etc.—only three or four miles from the town of Barisal—is unfit for use either by man or beast. The Lakhutia khal has silted up, and its muddy water, only half a cubit deep, is the only source of supply for nearly twenty thousand people. Will the District Board mind re-excavating the khal? The rivers in thanas Gaurnadi, Jhalakati and Surupkati are scarcely navigable during six months in the year. It is very much to be regretted that the authorities of the District Board should lavishly spend money in making thoroughfares for carriages and bicycles, and plead want of funds when asked to provide drinking water for the people.

13. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 6th May says that the two slaughter-houses on the road running westward from the Keshavganj inn, in Burdwan, have no walls or enclosures, and the consequence is that cows are slaughtered within sight of Hindus. Will the authorities spare Hindus the sight of this abominable spectacle by compelling the proprietors of the slaughter-houses to set up walls or enclosures?

SANSODHINI,
May 2nd, 1902.

BASUMATI,
May 8th, 1902.

BIKAS,
May 3rd, 1902.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI.
May 6th, 1902.

PRATINIDHI,
May 7th, 1902.

14. A correspondent, writing to the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 7th May, says that people living in the jurisdiction of the Feni Local Board, suffer from scarcity of drinking water for nearly eight months in the year. The roads in the Chhagalnaiya thana are in a miserable condition. The constitution of the Board needs looking after; for, at present, the different thanas are not adequately represented on the Board.

JYOTI,
May 8th, 1902.

15. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 8th May says that it cannot understand why Babu Prasanna Kumar Chaudhuri, The Head Clerkship of the Head Clerk of the Chittagong District Board Chittagong District Board office, has been allowed a pension, as he is under 55, and is perfectly healthy and fit for work. Now, who is to succeed him as Head Clerk? Much depends on this appointment; for nobody who is not known to be above corruption should be given this post. For instance, there is a clerk in the Board's office who is suspected to have, on receipt of illegal gratification, shelved certain reports of investigations into the oppressions of the ijardars of the ferry and the pound. Such a man should never be appointed Head Clerk. At the same time, the deserving clerks of the Board's office ought to get promotion. Cannot Mr. Geake, Chairman of the District Board, get a competent man from the Collectorate or the Commissioner's office to fill up the appointment of Head Clerk of the Board, and remove the deserving clerks of the Board's office to some other offices on promotion?

HITAVADI,
May 9th, 1902.

16. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May writes as follows:—

The Asensol Municipality. Since the establishment of the Asensol Municipality in 1896, the inhabitants of the villages Asensol and Budha, comprising the entire municipality, have hardly benefited by it. It has been a curse rather than a blessing to them. The villagers are all poor cultivators. We know that municipal government is impossible where the cultivating population predominates. But everything is possible where the interests of white men are to be served. Before the municipality was established, it was the East Indian Railway Company which used to construct roads in Asensol and make provisions for lighting them, and it was the European servants of the Company at Asensol and their families who mainly benefited by them. Now that a municipality has been established at the place, these works are executed with money taken from the poor cultivators. Many are their grievances against the Railway Company. What was once a tank, has now been converted into a lawn, to make a riding ground for European Railway servants and their ladies. The lands which once supplied food to the families of many a cultivator have now passed into the hands of the Railway Company. If the Company requires one bigha of land, it acquires ten bighas. Few among the poor people have the means to fight out their rights in the law-courts. Even those who win their cases, can seldom realise their money from the Railway Company. These and many others are the oppressions which are committed with the help of the Land Acquisition Act.

The Company's Engineer has extended the boundary of the municipality beyond the limits fixed in the *Calcutta Gazette*. Carriages belonging to the Commissioners of the municipality are exempted from taxation. It was announced in the *Calcutta Gazette* that the municipality should consist of nine Commissioners, but at present there are ten Commissioners. Of these ten Commissioners, six are Europeans, five of whom again are the Company's servants. The four native Commissioners, none of whom is a local man, and two of whom do not know even the English alphabet, although all the municipal business is conducted in English, are also the Company's men. Is not one among the local people fit to be a Commissioner? The municipality has an annual income of Rs. 13,000. But not even Rs. 1,300 has been spent on the improvement of the native quarters during the six years of its existence, although the poor natives have to pay their rates to the last farthing in these famine years. We have been astonished to find in a recent Government resolution announcing grants made by the public for purposes of public utility that the Company is supplying water to the municipality. Years before the establishment of the municipality, the Company constructed two hydrants for

supplying water to its own men. These hydrants are still supplying water to them. But can it be called a grant to the municipality?

17. The same paper says that although Muhammadans form a third part of the population of the Burdwan district, yet not a single Muhammadan has this year been either elected or nominated to sit on the District Board.

Muhammadans in the Burdwan District Board. Board. The District Magistrate has deviated from the usual practice of nominating two such members to sit on it. The Muhammadan Association of Burdwan has petitioned the Divisional Commissioner against the District Magistrate's decision. It is only just that the Muhammadan population should be fairly represented on the Board.

18. The same paper complains of the negligence of the Calcutta Municipality in protecting and managing the public squares within it—Beadon Square, Cornwallis Square, College Square, &c. The pathways

Condition of the public squares in Calcutta. in the squares are not watered, and the seats and benches, which are fewer than they should be, are not dusted. Thousands of respectable people resort to these squares every evening for recreation, but they have to suffer many inconveniences on account of the want of a proper management thereof. It is hoped that the municipal authorities will look to this.

19. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 11th May publishes a letter from Outbreak of a fatal disease among cows in the Midnapore district. a correspondent in village Jaynagar in Doro pargana in the Midnapore district, regarding the outbreak of a fatal disease among cows in the village and several neighbouring villages. All of a sudden, the hair on their bodies stand on end, and the cows seem to drowse. Soon after, there is some secretion from the mouth, and all food is refused. Then follow some liquid motions, and the animals die in five or six hours. Will the District Board see to this soon?

(g — Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

20. A correspondent, writing to the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 9th May, A railway complaint. complains that while the fare from Sealdah to Kanaghat on the Eastern Bengal State Railway is

9 annas 6 pies, the actual amount, that is being realized now, is 9 annas 9 pies. Will the authorities see to this?

21. Babu Purnendu Mohan Sihanabis, an inhabitant of the village Naodanga in the Rangpur district, writes to the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May to the following effect:—

A railway complaint. The station building at Gitaldaha junction, the newly established railway station between the Mogalhat and Gitaldaha stations on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, not being complete, passengers intending to travel from the station do so without tickets with the permission of the station-master and the guard. Tickets are purchased at the next station, and the fare from Gitaldaha junction to that station is paid there. On the 10th March last, I and my peon went to the station, and seeing the train standing asked its guard for permission to travel in it. The guard refused. I ran to the station-master and requested him to speak for us to the guard, who afterwards consented, at his repeated requests, to our travelling in the train, which was in the meantime put in motion. Anyhow we leaped upon the footboard and found that all the doors were locked. We knew not what to do. The train was fast approaching the Dharmo bridge, which was under repair. If we stood any longer on the footboard, the bamboo works on the bridge might kill us. Perceiving the nature of the approaching danger, we tried to leap into a carriage through the windows and succeeded in doing so. We purchased our tickets at the Mogalhat station and paid the fare from the preceding station, but the booking clerk did not give us any receipt for this fare. Our tickets bore the Nos. 487 and 488 respectively. The attention of the Railway authorities is drawn to the conduct of the booking clerk, and especially to that of the guard of the train.

22. The same paper publishes the following communication:—

Railway matters. (1) No. 26 down passenger train on the East Indian Railway should reach the Howrah station at 9 hours 35 minutes. But for the last few weeks it is not arriving before ten,

HITAVADI,
May 9th, 1902.

HITAVADI,

MEDINI BANDHAV.
May 11th, 1902.

SAMAY,
May 9th, 1902.

HITAVADI,
May 9th, 1902.

HITAVADI.

This is causing great inconvenience to those passengers who come to office by this train. They may lose their service if this state of things continues much longer. Again, the excessive overcrowding of the carriages in this train between Burdwan and Howrah causes great hardship to the passengers. Cannot the Railway Police stop this overcrowding?

(2) The necessity of constructing a platform and an overbridge at the Kalipahari station has been more than once brought to the notice of the Railway authorities, but to no effect. Human life is in danger in consequence of the want of these necessary things. It is hoped that the Railway authorities will earn the gratitude of the local public by removing their want.

(3) Schools and Civil Courts remain closed for nearly six weeks every year on account of the *Durga puja*. But the Railway Companies allow compensation tickets on this occasion which are available for 30 days only. Students and the Civil Court *amla* cannot therefore reap the advantage of these tickets because the time (30 days) allowed expires before their holidays are over. This difficulty may be greatly obviated by making 40 days the available time for these tickets. The Railway Companies will not lose by so doing, and will probably gain by more passengers taking advantage of the increased concession.

23. A correspondent writes as follows in the same paper:—

In these hot days passengers by the Bengal Central Railway suffer greatly on account of the want of proper arrangements for supplying them

Water-supply on the Bengal Central Railway suffer greatly on account of the want of proper arrangements for supplying them with drinking water at the different stations. On the 11th April last I was travelling in No. 1 up train on the line. I called for drinking water at the Nabharan and Jhikargachha stations, but none replied. I was then obliged to quench my thirst with aerated water. On the 22nd April last I was travelling in a down train on the same line. A little boy of a fellow-passenger became very thirsty. But no *pani-pandes* were found at the Guma and Dogachhia stations. The *pani-pande* at Dattapukur said that there was no water and seemed quite indifferent. The boy became restless. His father ran to the station Babus and brought some water. The attention of the Traffic Superintendent of the line is drawn to the matter.

(h)—General.

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
May 9th, 1902.

We are tired of agitating against the Government Central Press. Under the orders of the Government of India, Government clerks can no longer be fined by their superiors; but the men employed in the Central Press are not clerks and do not therefore reap the benefit of this excellent order. In 1900-1901 no less than Rs. 13,000, and in 1901-1902 no less than Rs. 13,600 were realised from them as fines. Let His Excellency Lord Curzon consider whether it was just to fine poorly-paid people so heavily in those famine years.

25. The same paper writes as follows:—

Some time ago the Director-General of Telegraphs issued the following circular:—"I am directed to enquire whether any local scale signaller in your division volunteers for general scale service, and if so, to request you to fill up the accompanying form for each signaller who has completed three years' service.

"I am also to state that the medical certificate required under clause (9) of the form need not be submitted until called for; at present only an expression of your opinion on this point is required."

On receiving the circular, Mr. Good and Mr. Gibbs, Telegraph Superintendents, Nagpur and Madras, respectively, wrote to the Director-General, enquiring whether the names of native signallers should be included in the list required by him. The circular was written in plain unambiguous language; no distinction was made in it between natives and Eurasians. Both native and Eurasian signallers have to do the same sort of work, and are therefore entitled to equal treatment in the Department. What was it therefore which made the Superintendents doubt whether the names of native signallers should be included in the list or not? This is a secret of the Telegraphic Department.

The Director-General replied to neither of the letters. But the Chief Superintendent of his office informed the enquiring Superintendents of Nagpur and Madras that the names of native signallers should find no place in the list. If this monstrous partiality had the approval of the Director-General, why did he not make it clear in the circular? A show of a policy of equality has to be placed before the people; Lord Curzon wants to assure the people that there is partiality nowhere; if the people or the native press raise a clamour, honesty will have to be pleaded, and the remark should be made that motives are unjustly imputed—all this is a big fun.

There is something more curious in this connection. The above circular has been issued in every part of India, except Calcutta. We do not know whether it has been issued in Calcutta by the backdoor, and a list of the names of Eurasian signallers secretly prepared.

During the last two years no native has been taken either as an apprentice or on probation in the Signalling Department. We do not know whether instances of such unfair treatment of natives come to the notice of the authorities of the Telegraphic Department or to that of Lord Curzon of Kedleston. Many are the disadvantages to which the black skin is heir. But we ask Lord Curzon, does not this mean the shame of the authorities?

Some two years ago, the signallers made a joint petition to His Excellency, stating their grievances. But to their misfortune, they have not yet received a reply.

It is indeed very bad to impute motives. It bespeaks narrowness of mind in the imputing man. But is not partiality a much graver sin than the imputing of motives? The Government may be a votary of the policy of equality; but how can we believe the words of the officials when we see them trifled with in practice? Lord Curzon is wise, intelligent, far-sighted, and thoughtful. We ask him, is not this show of a policy of equality tantamount to a monstrous deceit.

We request the authorities to enquire into the matter, and stop the flow of partiality in the Telegraphic Department.

26. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 11th May hopes that Mr. Ranken,

Magistrate of Dacca, will sanction the establishment of a Sub-Registry office at Lauhajanga in Vikrampur in the Dacca district for the convenience

of the people of South Vikrampur. The Pal zamindars of Lauhajanga are willing to make a free grant of land, and also to bear the expenses of erecting a building for an office.

DACCA PRAKAS,
May 11th, 1902.

Wanted a Sub-Registry office
in Vikrampur.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

27. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 6th May publishes a "communicated" article, contradicting the statement of the

Mr. J. N. Ray's case against
the Maharaja of Tippera.

Pratinidhi of the 3rd April to the effect that the

Maharaja of Tippera will have to express his regret in writing to Mr. J. N. Ray, Barrister-at-Law. The writer says he has learnt from a most trustworthy source that the Maharaja will have to express his regret to the Government of India and not to Mr. J. N. Ray; and this seems to be very reasonable, as the matter is rather of the nature of an international question. No doubt the *Pratinidhi* has been misinformed; but it must be admitted at the same time that it would have been more gentlemanlike on the part of the editor of the *Pratinidhi* if he had refrained from making strong observations before ascertaining, to the best of his ability, the correctness of his information.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,
May 8th, 1902.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

28. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th May writes as follows:—

Farewell honours to Mr. Cotton. Why has Mr. Cotton been welcomed at Shillong, Gauhati, Goalundo, and Ranaghat? Why have the leaders of the different communities in Calcutta heartily welcomed him? When a man comes to the rescue of the oppressed and down-trodden, at the sacrifice of self-interest, the world is charmed with the heavenly spectacle. There are not on this earth any creatures so miserable as the coolies in tea-gardens. To relieve the misery of these coolies, a highly placed officer like

SANJIVANI,
May 8th, 1902.

the Chief Commissioner of Assam has incurred the displeasure of the Viceroy, the odium of the tea-planters, and the censure of his own countrymen, and yet he has not given up his advocacy of the cause of the coolies. This has marred all his prospects in the service, and still he has not been able to forget the miseries of the coolies. Seeing this unprecedented spectacle of self-sacrifice, the Indians have paid him honours due to a god. That is why there was such a demonstration in the Town Hall. That god, the mother of India, may keep you happy, O generous Cotton, is the prayer of the poor Indians.

BASUMATI,
May 8th, 1902.

29. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th May says it is popularly believed that the proposed restoration of the Black Hole Memorial in Calcutta is a sort of a reply to the statement of Babu Akshya Kumar Maitreya, the Bengali historian, that if the Black Hole incident had been a real occurrence, Englishmen would never have permitted its memorial to be destroyed after having erected one. Nor does this popular idea seem to be ill-founded; for, what occasion is there, after all, for the restoration of the memorial? To future historians of Bengal, this restoration of the memorial will look like a glorious triumph of Bengali literature, as it is sure to be interpreted as an attempt to refute the arguments of a Bengali historian tending to disprove the fact of the Black Hole. But, accepting the Black Hole incident to be a historical fact, what useful purpose would be served by thus perpetuating its memory? Will not the memorial proclaim to the world the shame of Englishmen for all time to come? For will it not recall to mind the fact that, because Mr. Drake, the Governor of the Fort, and other principal officers and soldiers fled from the Fort, the rest, being unable to defend the Fort, had to die in the Black Hole? What is more, will not the memorial perpetuate the memory of those scandalous deeds of Englishmen in India in those times which have been well nigh buried in oblivion? Will it not recall to the mind the doings of Umichand, the white and black treaties, the attempt to ruin Nanda Coomar by unfair means, and the intrigues for the subversion of Muhammadan rule in Bengal? What good then will be gained by restoring the memorial?

HITAVADI,
May 9th, 1902.

30. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May writes as follows:—
Mr. Cotton's ovation. Everywhere Mr. Cotton is accorded an ovation befitting a god. Those who have seen with their own eyes the demonstrations which have been made by the people in his honour can testify to the comparative worthlessness of honours received at the hands of the Government. A tribute coming from the heart of a poor people is not attended with pomp and splendour. Other festivals may surpass it in richness of demonstration; but how often do we see festivals equalling it in earnest outpourings of the heart's love and reverence? How many, again, are the fortunate recipients of such tributes? We shall commemorate Mr. Cotton's name by a statue. The names of many people have been commemorated and will be commemorated by this means, but how many officials have we seen or expect to see of the stamp of Mr. Cotton?

BANGAVASI,
May 10th, 1902.

31. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th May writes as follows:—
Farewell honours to Mr. Cotton. What never happened before, has now come to pass. Did any one leave Bengal before with such honours as Mr. Cotton, who left this province besmeared with the sandal-paste of the people's reverence, anointed with the odoriferous gum of their love and bedecked with a wreath of affection lovingly waved to and fro by the joyous wind? Some people are in the habit of referring to the ovation in the midst of which Lord Ripon departed from this country. But why compare Lord Ripon, the Viceroy of India, with Mr. Cotton, the Chief Commissioner of Assam? Did any Provincial Governor ever before leave the country with such honours?

Lord Ripon was the Viceroy of India and Mr. Cotton was only the Chief Commissioner of Assam. There is an immense difference in rank and dignity between the two. But there is no such difference in their hearts and dispositions. The hearts of both overflowed with a genuine love for the people. Both were large-hearted. In some of his undertakings, Ripon failed, while of others, he could not perceive the ultimate mischievous consequences. But there is no

denying that he was prompted by a sincere desire of doing the people good. The same is true also of Mr. Cotton.

32. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 11th May has the following:—

If you would know, O Englishman! the true

Why Bengalis are showing cause of the mighty demonstration, the universal honour to Mr. Cotton wailing in the country, just ask the people of

Bengal, what has Mr. Cotton ever done for anybody? They will unanimously say that if the generous Cotton has done nothing else, he has at least shed a drop of tear at the sight of our misery and distress. In these evil days even this is enough for us. Smarting as we do under grievous wrong and oppression, we have not received even this much sympathy from anybody else. That is why Mr. Cotton is so dear to us, and that is why, knowing that he is leaving us for good, the representatives of Bengal stand at his feet to-day with the offering of a tear-drop mixed with heart-felt love and reverence to look their last at him.

Mr. Cotton was never appointed ruler of Bengal, and he was not therefore in a position to do the people of Bengal any particular good or harm. But the people of Bengal will ever remain grateful to him for the sympathy he showed with them in inferior capacities. As ruler of Assam, the independent Mr. Cotton has given evidence of a generosity and love for the people which makes one suppose, as it moved by the wailings of distress of afflicted mortals, a god had descended on this sinful earth in the person of Mr. Cotton. Many rulers have come to Assam and, at the conclusion of their terms of office, have again departed from that province. But alas! how many of them were moved at the sight of the ruptured spleens of black natives or of the miserable life they led as coolies. If you do not sympathise with me, O master! in my agony and humiliation, why shall I feel for you? That is why we say, O son of Britain! if you would captivate the hearts of Indians just learn to shed tears of sympathy for the sorrows of India. We are born to serve, and we will fulfil the end of our being by serving all our lives. But do not spurn us away, O master! if we happen to faint from overwork or inanition.

33. The same paper hopes that in the distribution of Honours on the

Distribution of Coronation Honours. occasion of the coming Coronation, the claims of Babu Harendra Lal Rai Chaudhuri, zamindar of

Bhagyakul in Vikrampur, Dacca, and of Mr. Justice Chandra Madhav Ghosh, who is a native of East Bengal, will not be overlooked. The former should be made a Raja, and the latter a Knight. East Bengal will feel honoured by these two personages being honoured.

34. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th May is sorry that

Mr. Cotton.

Mr. Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Assam, has gone to England on furlough, and that he will

never return to India to rejoin his office.

URIA PAPERS.

35. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd May states that the health of the Cuttack town is improving. Owing to want of rain last week, its temperature is also rising.

36. The agitation in connection with the municipal assessment in

Public agitation against the Cuttack municipal assessment. Cuttack still forms the subject of discussion in the columns of the same paper. A monster meeting attended by 3,000 rate-payers or objectors, was held in the Municipal Park on the 27th of the last month, in which a large number of resolutions, relating to the objectionable character of the assessment, were passed without a single dissentient voice. The meeting recorded its decision that the Municipal Commissioners be moved to reject the assessment *in toto* as being irregular, inequitable and illegal. The writer supports the decision and advises the Cuttack Municipality to profit by lessons drawn from experience.

37. Referring to the departure of Mr. B. C. Sen, the Joint-Magistrate of

Mr. B. C. Sen as the Joint-Magistrate of Cuttack. Cuttack, on leave, the same paper states that Mr. Sen, though stationed at Cuttack for a short

time, had endeared himself to the public by his proceedings, which were characterised by justice and impartiality. Though

DACCA PRAKAS,
May 11th, 1902.

DACCA PRAKAS,

HINDI BANGAVASI,
May 12th, 1902.

UTKALDIPAKA,
May 3rd, 1902.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA.

sorry to lose his services for the present, the Cuttack public hope that they will be placed at their disposal ere long.

UTKALDIPAKA.
May 3rd, 1902.

38. The same paper highly praises Mr. Fischer, the Collector of Cuttack, for his kindness and sympathy towards the The Collector of Cuttack and zamindars of the Cuttack district, whom he allowed to pay land-revenue into the Treasury even after the *latbandi* day. The writer observes that this judicious exercise of a discretionary power, vested in the Collector, will be highly appreciated by the entire landed interest.

UTKALDIPAKA.

39. The same paper is informed that a man named Hari Sahu, who is a native of Manjuri village in subdivision Plague in a village in the Jajpur in district Cuttack and who had imported plague to that village from Calcutta, died of that disease in Manjuri, spreading the germs among his near relatives, some of whom also succumbed after his death. The writer hopes that further progress or development of the disease will be checked in time, and is therefore glad to learn that the District Magistrate of Cuttack has already deputed the Hospital Assistant of Dharmasala to the village in question.

UTKALDIPAKA.

40. In announcing with great regret the death of the Hon'ble Mr. Philip Nolan, senior Member of the Board of Revenue, The late Mr Nolan. after a very short illness, the same paper states that Mr. Nolan, while he was Collector of Cuttack, was well known to the people of Orissa. He was a fair-minded officer, much liked by the people, and in his demise not only the Government but the public have lost a deserving and trustworthy public servant and a valuable friend.

UTKALDIPAKA.

41. Referring to the prospective expenditure in connection with the proposed Coronation Darbar at Delhi in the commencement of the ensuing year, the same paper Objection to the holding of the coming Coronation Darbar at Delhi. argues that the expenditure of such a large sum of money in a plague and famine year is not at all desirable, and that it would be very unjust if the tax-payers of India were required to find money for such a purpose, for the average Indian is very poor, and has been computed by the authorities to earn only 18 pies per day.

UTKALDIPAKA.

42. Referring to the ear-pulling case, in which Mr. Vernède, the Joint-Magistrate of Jalpaiguri and his peon were fined Mr. Vernède's fine. by the Deputy Commissioner of that place, the same paper observes that the action of the Deputy Commissioner has given universal satisfaction, inasmuch as he has upheld the majesty of the law, which makes no distinction of high and low, great and small, and rich and poor.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 23rd, 1902.

43. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 23rd April states that the new rules in connection with *rasad*, which the Supply of *rasad* to travelling *gauntias* of Sambalpur are required to supply to public officers moving on duty in that district, are not calculated to better the condition of the *gauntias*, who will probably be impoverished thereby, for they will not be able to realise the price of such *rasad* without difficulty.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 17th May, 1902.